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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 040894-7453

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Takao HASEGAWA, et al.)
Application No.: Unassigned) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Filed: June 1, 2006) Examiner: Unassigned
For: STAPLING APPARATUS)

Commissioner for Patents
MAIL STOP PCT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following are listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English:

a. JP A-2000-167782: The relevance of this document can be understood from the English language abstract attached thereto, the discussion at pages 1-6 of the present application, and the figures therein.

b. JP A-11-099505: The relevance of this document can be understood from the English language abstract attached thereto, the discussion at page 6 of the present application, and the figures therein.

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c. JP A-10-180712: The relevance of this document can be understood from the English language abstract attached thereto, the discussion at page 6 of the present application, and the figures therein.

d. JP A-6-206179: The relevance of this document can be understood from the International Search Report, the PCT/ISA/237, and the figures therein.

e. JP U-63-74289: The relevance of this document can be understood from the PCT/ISA/237 and the figures therein.

f. JP U-6-83282: The relevance of this document can be understood from the International Search Report and the figures therein.

g. JP A-2001-347474: The relevance of this document can be understood from the International Search Report and the figures therein.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 1, 2006

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PTO Form 1449	Applicants Takao HASEGAWA, et al.	Filing Date June 1, 2006
		Group Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u>	
							<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
		A-2000-167782	June 20, 2000	Japan			Abstract	
		A-11-099505	April 13, 1999	Japan			Abstract	
		A-10-180712	July 7, 1998	Japan			Abstract	
		A-6-206179	July 26, 1994	Japan				X
		U-63-74289	May 18, 1988	Japan				X
		U-6-83282	Nov. 29, 1994	Japan				X
		A-2001-347474	Dec. 18, 2001	Japan				X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered
<p>Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	